

**REMARKS**

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-17 are currently pending in this application. Claims 3 and 7 are hereby cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 12-17 are allowed, and that claims 3, 7 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10 and 11 are all rejected on prior art grounds.

The allowable subject matter of claim 3 is hereby incorporated into claim 1, and the allowable subject matter of claim 7 is incorporated into claim 6. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 3 and 7, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 6 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 is objected to because of an informality. Applicants hereby adopt the Examiner's suggested correction, and also effect some editorial amendments to the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-17, which are all of the presently pending claims, are believed to be allowable.

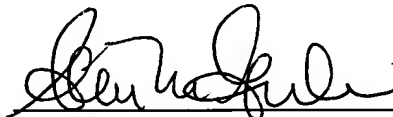
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/733,637

ART UNIT 3752  
Q78910

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin  
Registration No. 36,818

**SUGHRUE MION, PLLC**  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 3, 2005